

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /066 W

----- 063417

R 211745Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8914

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4714

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XE, XM

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 20 NAC MEETING: DISCUSSION OF EXPERTS  
REPORTS ON THE FAR EAST, AND LATIN AMERICA

1. EXPERTS CHAIRMAN DE BEAUSSE OPENED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF FAR EAST AND LATIN AMERICAN EXPERTS REPORTS AT NOVEMBER 20 NAC WITH BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH REPORT. RE THE FAR EAST REPORT, DE BEAUSSE POINTED TO EXPERTS' CONTINUING FOCUS ON CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS AND TO DIFFICULTY AT PRESENT TIME OF ASSESSING MEANING OF POWER STRUGGLES WHICH ARE GOING ON WITHIN CHINESE LEADERSHIP. EXPERTS HAD RAISED POSSIBILITY OF DANGER TO CHINESE UNITY AT THE TIME OF MAO'S PASSING. THE EXPERTS HAD ALSO NOTED THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING JAPAN, BUT POINTED TO TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE SHOULD SHOULD CONDITONS WARRANT. WITH REGARD TO INDIAN OCEAN, FE EXPERTS NOTED SOVIET PRESENCE BUT DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD INCREASE ALTHOUGH REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

2. FRG PERMREP (KRAPF) NOTED EXPERTS' COMMENTARY ON TANAKA'S ABILITY TO "MUDDLE THROUGH" BUT SUGGESTED THIS MIGHT NEED REVIEW SINCE JAPANESE PRIMIN MIGHT SOON RESIGN. KRAPF QUES-  
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TIONED ASSESSMENT IN PARAGRAPH 18 WHICH CITED "EQUIDISTANT" POLICY ADOPTED BY JAPAN IN ITS RELATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CPR. WHILE THE JAPANESE MAINTAINED AN "EQUIDISTANT" POLICY, KRAPF SAID THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION

WAS BASED ON FEAR AND SUSPICION POSSIBLY TEMPERED BY LIMITED ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THE JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD CHINA, HOWEVER, WAS FOUNDED ON ANCIENT HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES WHICH, DESPITE THE SINO-JAPANESE WARS OF THIS CENTURY, FORM THE BASIS OF AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP THAN THAT EXISTING BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION. SIMILARLY, JAPAN SAW IN CHINA A GREAT POTENTIAL MARKET AND SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS. ALTHOUGH NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE REPORT BE CHANGED TO REFLECT HIS VIEWS, KRAPF ASKED CHAIRMAN DE BEAUSSE TO REMIND EXPERTS AT THEIR NEXT SESSION TO BE AWARE THAT MINISTERS, WHO ARE THE AUDIENCE FOR THE EXPERTS REPORT, ARE NOT NECESSARILY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT NUANCES LIKE THOSE RECITED ABOVE.

3. IN PRESENTING THE LATIN AMERICAN REPORT, DE BEAUSSE NOTED EXPERTS' JUDGEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 3 THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS COULD PROFITABLY USE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS INTER-MEDIARY BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE THIRD WORLD.

4. AT CLOSE OF SESSION, COUNCIL NOTED BOTH REPORTS AND AGREED THEY NEED NO BE SUBMITTED FOR SPECIFIC ATTENTION OF MINISTERS. MCAULIFFE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 JUN 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATO06474  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NOVEMBER 20 NAC MEETING: DISCUSSION OF EXPERTS REPORTS ON THE FAR EAST, AND LATIN AMERICA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NATO, XE, XM  
**To:** STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005